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garian food minister, an office which he apparently filled with great energy and success. He now won the esteem of Emperor Charles, became one of his most intimate advisers, and secured his theoretical approval for a wide-reaching programme of reform which Windischgraetz laid before him in May, 1918; an unequivocal statement to Germany of Austria's absolute inability to carry on the war longer; an immediate separate peace with the Entente if Germany insisted on continuing the war; autonomy for the subject nationalities (except Galicia which was to be ceded to Poland); and universal suffrage in Hungary. But Charles had not the courage to put this programme into practical effect—until it was too late. Windischgraetz and Szilassy both think the Monarchy and much of its territory could have been saved if the emperor had acted on this programme at once. This however is very doubtful; at least it must remain one of the unsolved "ifs" of history. When at last Charles did act on Windischgraetz's advice by appointing Julius Andrassy as foreign minister (Oct. 25), the débâcle had already begun. National councils had been set up in Prag, Agram, and Budapest; Germany was in retreat in France; and the Italians were breaking through in the South. In Hungary Andrassy's own son-in-law, Károlyi, driven by ambition, treacherously deceived his father and dethroned his emperor. Windischgraetz, who remained loyal to Charles and was one of those who shared in his second ill-starred effort to return to the Hungarian throne in October, 1921, is very bitter against Károlyi; perhaps he paints his perfidy too black. Here, and in some other passages, his statements must probably be taken *cum grano salis*.

Nowhere is there a better account than in this spirited book of why and how the Dual Monarchy at last collapsed.

SIDNEY B. FAY.

Life of Venizelos. By S. B. CHESTER (Chester of Wethersfield and Blary), with a Letter from His Excellency M. Venizelos. (New York: George H. Doran Company. 1921. Pp. xvi, 321. \$6.00.)

MR. CHESTER has had exceptional advantages in the performance of his task. In addition to five friends of the statesman, among them his permanent secretary, to whom he expresses his obligations (add Mr. Leonard Magnus, p. 305, note), M. Venizelos himself "found time . . . to enlighten me [the author] upon various matters connected with his life and work" (p. vii), and, indeed, in the introductory letter states that he read that part of the book which deals with the Cretan Question (p. vi). We may, therefore, regard the present biography as being in a sense "inspired", a circumstance which should guarantee it an unusual value among books of the kind, and in particular may assume that the record of the Cretan imbroglio, which is here presented at considerable length, gives an unusually accurate account of this confused period from the point of view of the chief actor therein; and these chapters

contain what is probably the book's most valuable contribution to knowledge.

One other point, the precise bearing and implications of which are, I confess, not altogether clear to me, ought, perhaps, for the sake of the critical student of history, to be recorded in this context. In the same introductory letter M. Venizelos writes, "So far, I have declined to read manuscripts of books sent to me and dealing with myself and I could not make an exception in your case." This statement appears to be somewhat at variance with that of Mr. H. A. Gibbons, "Much of the story has come from Premier Venizelos himself and from M. Politis, Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs since 1917. These main actors in the regeneration of Greece have been gracious enough to read my manuscript and call my attention to errors of fact" (*Venizelos*, 1920, pp. x ff.).

The composition is lucid, and there are numerous but not wearisome quotations from conversations and documents of all kinds, but unfortunately the sources for these are seldom given. A marked vivacity of style helps to sustain interest during the bewildering mazes of intrigue and negotiations, but leads to occasional lapses from dignity, as in the case of some pretty sorry puns (pp. 190, 193, 239), and the rather overdone comparison of King Constantine with a balky mule, flinging itself upon the ground and raising a "cloud of dust and dirt" (pp. 233 ff.), a variety of *jeu d'esprit* which historians might perhaps better leave to the cartoonist's less rigorous sense of decorum.

Regarded as biography, the most noteworthy weakness of the sketch is the failure to present effectively those substantial and charming traits of intellect, character, and bearing, so brilliantly set forth, for example, by Mr. Gibbons (*op. cit.*, pp. 162 ff.), which make M. Venizelos, undoubtedly one of the world's greatest statesmen, also perhaps its most engaging public personality. Mr. Chester's treatment of this theme evinces inexperience in the delineation of character, and a tendency at times to descend to the trivial. Thus the formidable list of French wines which "would" or would not "probably appeal to him" might properly have given place to more significant traits of individuality.

Considered as history, the present work gives adequate consideration, indeed, to the military and especially the political aspects of M. Venizelos's career, but there is hardly more than a mention of his masterly programme of educational, economic, and social reforms. These constitute the substantial basis upon which alone could have been erected the brilliant diplomatic and military achievements which, although for the time being they focus attention upon themselves, will, in the juster perspective of the future, without doubt occupy a distinctly less conspicuous position. Even in politics Mr. Chester omits some important facts that constitute an integral part of the story, and treats others with a euphemism and optimism which, if taken at their face value, would leave one simply bewildered at the lamely explained, but by no means

inexplicable, upheaval of the election of November, 1920. The present work cannot, therefore, escape wholly the charge of a measure of partizanship, and that is the more unfortunate because the subject of it himself and the large outlines of his public policy hold so secure a place in history and the respect of mankind that they have relatively little to fear from an impartial and even critical examination of the complete record. King Constantine's basic political error seems to have been that he, together with the General Staff, believed the war would end in a stalemate—surely a not unreasonable conjecture before the entry of America—but of his devotion to what he believed to be the best interests of his people, and of the confidence which great numbers of them have in his integrity, there can hardly exist a reasonable doubt. The prolonged struggle between the king and the statesman over the methods by which Greece was to be best served is no doubt still too recent to allow on either side the magnanimous treatment of an adversary; but now that Constantine, in striving manfully to achieve the long overdue redemption of the Hellenes of Western Asia Minor, is but executing the policy conceived and inaugurated by Venizelos, it is perhaps not too quixotic to hope that, forgetting the past, they may find a basis for reconciliation in a united effort to safeguard the future of the nation.

W. A. OLDFATHER.

The New World of Islam. By LOTHROP STODDARD, A.M., Ph.D.
(New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1921. Pp. vii, 362.
\$3.00.)

BETWEEN journalism and history lies a debatable ground, having to do with the most recent or "current" events. The journalist stands on the field of time at that advancing line called the present which separates the partly known past from the wholly unknown future. His first concern, as new events are disclosed, is rapid recognition, approximate discernment, and tentative description. He is not held by his own conscience, or the demands of his readers, to the highest attainable measure of accuracy, perspective, and insight. The historian, on the other hand, is less concerned with promptness than with the desire to record reliably what has indubitably happened, and to interpret it with some measure of finality. Not long since he often scorned to deal with affairs of the latest quarter-century, on the ground that adequate materials could not in that time become available for constructing a narrative worthy to be called history. With more rapid publication of documents and reporting of facts (here he is greatly indebted to the journalist), and under the pressure of present-day demands for timeliness and practical service, the historian ventures progressively nearer to the present.

European countries have developed, and America is beginning to